

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165009

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 5792 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO
USUN NEW YORK ISLAMABAD TEHRAN JUL 14
QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5792

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECOSOC
SUBJECT: 63RD ECOSOC: PLO MEMBERSHIP IN ECWA

REF: GENEVA 5549

1. WELLS AND KITCHEN MET WITH MOKHTAR, COUNSELOR EGYPTIAN
MISSION GENEVA, TO DISCUSS PLO MEMBERSHIP QUESTION. AMBASSADOR
EL-SHAFEI IS OUT OF TOWN AND WILL NOT BE BACK UNTIL JULY 19.

2. WE DREW BROAD BACKGROUND PICTURE FOR PLO MEMBERSHIP QUESTION
STRESSING BEGIN VISIT IN WASHINGTON BEGINNING NEXT WEEK,
PRESIDENT'S ALREADY WELL-KNOWN STATEMENTS ON PALESTINE QUESTION,
REPORTS IN HERALD TRIBUNE OF THIS MORNING REGARDING SADAT'S
CONCILIATORY GESTURES, AND EVEN QUESTION OF US MEMBERSHIP IN ILO.
POINT OF ALL THIS WAS TO DRIVE HOME THE CRITICAL NATURE OF THE
TIMING OF THE PLO MEMBERSHIP QUESTION COMING UP NEXT WEEK. WE PUT
FORTH A SUGGESTED FORMULA TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION AS PER REFTEL,
I.E., QUESTION OF SETTING UP LEGAL GROUP.

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3. MOKHTAR MADE POINT THAT HE FELT PLO MEMBERSHIP QUESTION
COMING UP NEXT WEEK MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO PRESIDENT CARTER IN ORDER TO
SHOW PRESIDENT THE BACKING OF WORLD OPINION ON QUESTION OF
PALESTINE. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT G-77 WAS SOLIDLY BEHIND ARABS
ON THIS QUESTION AND IF BROUGHT TO A VOTE ARABS WOULD WIN. AFTER
LENGTHY DISCUSSION MOKHTAR SURFACED SUGGESTION THAT ONE POSSIBLE

FORMULA TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WOULD BE FOR ECOSOC TO DECIDE THAT PLO WOULD HAVE "SEPECIAL STATUS" UNTIL TIME OF ECWA'S NEXT SESSIONAL MEETING MAY 78. ECOSOC WOULD ALSO LEAVE TO ECWA THE DECISION AS TO WHAT PLO'S FINAL STATUS IN COMMISSION WOULD BE. (THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THE FINAL DECISION WOULD BE FULL MEMBERSHIP.)

4. MOKHTAR SAID HE WAS CABLING CAIRO IMMEDIATELY WITH THIS PROPOSAL POINTING OUT THE URGENCY WHICH WE HAD PLACED ON SOME MEANS TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION. IT IS VERY CLEAR TO US THAT THE BEST FORMULA WE CAN HOPE FOR IS A POSTPONEMENT OF A DECISION WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY BE MADE AT THIS SESSION. MOKHTAR INDICATED NO INTEREST IN THE LEGAL EXPERTS FORMULA. WE ARE STILL EXPLORING THIS FORMULA WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS. IT IS ALSO APPARENT TO US THAT G-77 SOLIDARITY MIGHT NOT BE AS SOLID AS MOKHTAR POINTS OUT. PHILIPPINES, IRAN, BRAZIL, INCLUDING MANY LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATIONS REPORTEDLY WOULD ABSTAIN IN CASE OF A VOTE. WE POINTED OUT TO MOKHTAR THAT IF VOTE WERE TAKEN ARABS MIGHT FIND THEMSELVES WINNER BUT WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF ABSTENTIONS.

5. AT THIS POINT WE HAVE AT LEAST GOTTEN EGYPTIANS TO CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE FORMULA. REQUEST GUIDANCE SOONEST ON EGYPTIAN SUGGESTION PARA 3 ABOVE. WE ARE CONTINUING TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY SPECIFICALLY WITH IRAN AND PAKISTAN OF OPENING LARGER QUESTION OF MEMBERSHIP OF ECWA, NAMELY EXPANSION OF ECWA FROM STRICTLY ARAB REGIONAL COMMISSION TO ONE INCLUDING IRAN AND PAKISTAN.

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VANDEN HEUVEL
UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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